

# Frequently Asked Questions – Plan Checks

## I don't cook with grease. Do I need to install grease removal equipment?

Our program seeks to reduce the amount of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) that enter the sewers which can cause blockages and ultimately result in sanitary sewer overflows. FOG compounds can be found in a wide range of food that include animal byproducts or vegetable oils. If your establishment is preparing foods that contain these FOG compounds, you help us reduce the possibility of sewer overflows by installing grease removal equipment. If you have additional concerns, our staff is more than happy to offer further guidance.

## Will I need grease removal equipment if I don't have any cooking equipment on site?

It will depend. A FEWD staff member will review your menu and processes in order to determine if you will need to install grease removal equipment. Regardless of whether or not you will require grease removal equipment, you will still need a permit issued by the FEWD program.

## How will I know what type and size of grease removal equipment I need?

To determine the type and size of grease removal equipment, use the 2019 CA Plumbing Code sizing guidelines (use a 1-minute drain period for Hydromechanical Grease Interceptors).

## How do I contact my reviewer?

Please be sure to enter accurate contact information on the Plan Check Application and your reviewer will contact you if there are questions.

## How long will it take to review my plans?

It depends. Demand for our services varies. Our reviewers are assigned projects on a weekly basis in order of receipt. You will receive communication from our office when your project has been assigned and you can expect to receive approval or corrections within a week from the date of notification.

## I'm on a tight deadline, can my plan check be expedited?

Our staff is committed to completing your review as quickly as possible, but during busier times, this can be difficult. Please be patient with us as we work through our queue of customers that have been waiting for their review.

## How do I make an appointment?

We no longer use the appointment system. Fill out the **Plan Check Application** provided on our website and email that along with your plans to FEWDPlanChecks@sandiego.gov. Your project will be entered into a queue in order of receipt.

## Can I drop off physical plans?

Absolutely! Simply bring your completed Plan Check Application and physical drawings to our office at 9150 Topaz Way Monday – Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A representative will take your items and your project will be entered into our queue.

## My attachment is too large to send. Do you need the full set of plans?

No. We will need:

- Fixture/Equipment List with sink basin sizes shown (length x width x depth, in inches)
- Facility Floor Plan (numbered fixtures on the Floor Plan shall correspond to numbered fixtures on the Fixture Equipment List)
- Proposed underground Plumbing Plan (showing fixtures routed to GRE)
- Details of Grease Removal Equipment (showing manholes if applicable) and sizing calculations.

Please note: If your reviewer does not have all of the pages required to complete review, they will reach out to you. Failure to respond by the end of the week will result in conclusion of the review and the reviewer will send back the project with a "Corrections Required" stamp. The project will then need to be resubmitted for a recheck.



Public Utilities Department / Wastewater Collection Division  
Food Establishment Wastewater Discharge (FEWD) Permit Program  
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